

A Brief Response to the Mistaken Mona Eltahawy¹



¹ Eltahawy is an Egyptian freelance journalist who is well known for her ignorance regarding Islaam. She is a reporter for a Women's internet news site and is currently based in the USA. Eltahawy, and other Muslims desperately trying to get US Citizenship, are beginning to demonstrate how "progressive" they are in order to gain acceptance from the Kuffaar. One of Eltahawy's colleagues is Ahmed Nassef, a *UCLA* graduate and the infamous founder of the *MWU*. It is indeed a wake up for the Muslims to realize that such innovated and heretical ideas are being spread in the name of "progression," and that mocking the Qur'aan and the way of Muhammad (*sallallahu alayhi wassallam*) has sadly become popularized. The two take their knowledge from Khaalid Abu'l-Fadl (or Khaled Abou El Fadl) a professor at *Yale University* in America who is also known for his crude attacks on "Wahhabis" and his hatred of the Sunnah. This led Abu'l-Fadl to even criticise the companion of the Prophet Muhammad, Aboo Hurayrah (*radi Allaahu 'anhu*).

The trend of the modernists who call for "progressive" Islaam represents an extreme reactionary *Da'wah* from many Arabs frustrated with the spread of Islaam as explained in the Qur'aan and Sunnah, which they regard as "conservative." By this, the modernists (Nassef, Jawad Ali, Abu'l-Fad et al) aim to distance Muslims from the Qur'aan and Sunnah and place doubt in it, a very dangerous path. For this reason they have attempted to gain a following by: being controversial; writing fictional stories of falsehood regarding Muslims; bending over backwards for the Kuffaar and their media, regardless of whether what they are doing involves adhering to the Qur'aan and Sunnah or not.

This study is an assessment of the simplistic and distorted article '*The Wahhabi Threat to Islam*,' in the *Washington Post*, by Mona Eltahawy, June 6 2004.

In it, Elthawy, an adherent to the methodology of '*progressive Islam*', creates a baseless connection between 'Wahabism' and terrorism. Eltahawy was informed of the excellent work of James Haneef Oliver found within his book *The Wahhabi Myth* [www.thewahhabimyth.com]. Yet it transpired that Eltahawy not only demonstrated a rather irrational attitude to the clear evidence, but also seemed to have formed a confused understanding of the actions of some ignorant Muslims in Saudi Arabia, believing their actions to be the 'Wahhabi understanding of Islaam'.

One of her main contentions is that she has "*friends whose lives are being destroyed by Wahhabism*." Yet there are many Muslims whose lives are being destroyed by the capitalism and so-called democracy that the modernists use as a blueprint with which to make Islam 'progress'. There are in fact, nations that have become crippled because of an ideology based on a

ruthless greed for the joys and pleasures of this life. The same Ideology that the likes of Eltahawy try to merge Allah's religion into, adding in and compromising whatever they feel necessary.

There may actually be, as was claimed, some Saudis who will tell Eltahawy that their lives are being destroyed and that they have some sort of lack of human rights because of the '*Wahhabis*'. However, there are positively numerous more Saudis, Egyptians, Libyans, Algerians, Moroccans etc, that will note that their lives are being destroyed, and their human rights taken away by:

1. The Egyptian² founded *Ikhwaan al-Muslimeen* and their splinter groups, who incite bloody revolutions and civil wars.
2. Modernists and so called "progressive" Muslims that hope to disband traditional understandings of Islaam, oppress the people of the Sunnah and interpret Islaam in their own "progressive" way. This is done in such a way as to outlaw the wearing of the *hijab*, beards and even the five daily prayers.

² Eltahawy, who is from Egypt baselessly formed the opinion that Saudi Arabia is the capital of all of what is wrong with the Muslim world today and that this is because all of the Wahhabis originate from there.

Not to mention all the other groups who refuse to follow the pure guidance that the Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) taught, which in reality, is the same guidance that any unbiased observer will find those who the likes of Elhatawy describe as “*Wahhabis*” studying, following and teaching.

Many people have different life experiences and different goals in the things that they say, but the best way to judge an ideology, or methodology within a religion is to study the writings of its founder.

Through all of Eltahawy’s selective interviewing for her article, she was never able to understand ‘*Wahhabism*’ because of her lack of knowledge of this simple principle. Although it is the case that the teachings of Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahaab are the very same teachings, based on the same foundations and principles, as the those of Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*), until one reads the teachings and writings of Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahaab they will never understand what ‘*wahhabism*’ actually is. If Eltahawy took the time to do this, rather than just taking

peoples uneducated word of mouth experiences, she and those on her methodology would find that there are no differences between the teachings of Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhaab, and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

When one looks at the teachings of Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhaab, they will see that there is no threat to Islaam from '*Wahhabism*,' rather the true and correct '*Wahhabism*' is Islaam. When you find people ascribing themselves to Islaam and they don't follow the guidance of Muhammad, then it is a mistake to attack Islaam based on their actions, and it is the same for the '*Wahhabis*', even though the reality of the situation is that there is no-one who describes themselves as '*wahhabi*'. Rather it is the case that one of the real threats to Islam comes from those who, with no knowledge, try to adapt and change the religion in order to follow their own desires. These modernists have come to the misunderstanding that it is more beneficial to the people to add into the religion new ideas in order to make it 'more appealing', but they are ignorant of the saying of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) when he said:

“I have not left anything that will bring you closer to Allaah and distance you from the Hellfire, except that I have commanded you with it. And I have not left anything that will bring you closer to the Hellfire and distance you from Allaah except that I have forbade you from it.”

And the saying of Imaam Maalik Ibn Anas when he said:
"Whosoever introduces into Islaam an innovation, which he deems is good, then he has claimed that Muhammad (peace be upon him) has betrayed (the trust of conveying) the Message. Read the saying of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic: 'This day I have completed your Religion for you, and I have perfected My favor upon you, and I am pleased with Islaam as a Religion for you.'
[Surat-ul-Maa'idah:3] *So whatever was not (part of) the Religion on that day, is not (part of) the Religion on this day. And the last part of this ummah (nation) will not be rectified, except by that which rectified its first part."*

Eltahawy would be better off learning about the pure monotheism that '*Wahhaabism*' promotes as a benefit to her own self and her own country,³ rather than seeking out people to interview so that they can speak on a matter without knowledge.

Eltahawy displayed a distinct lack of objectivity and knowledge when writing, apparently influenced by petty grievances from her experiences in Saudi Arabia.

She blatantly rejects material from researchers regarding the inaccurately named '*Wahhaabis*', and the root causes for Islamic extremism and terrorism in the world today. This extremism originated in the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and is being nurtured in these times through the books of those such as the Egyptian writer, Sayyid Qutb.

Some points for Eltahawy and her likes to ponder:

³ Egypt is a place wherein the worship of graves is manifest, such as the graves, tombs and shrines of Badawee and others.

1. Her inaccuracies reflect an un-professional attitude and her inexperience in journalism within the West. Her use of inaccurate terms for Muslims she understands very little about also reflect this.

2. It was actually thought that Eltahawy was an experienced writer, what with her articles widely disseminated throughout the west. However, it is not reasonable to conclude that someone of this description would irresponsibly write articles without properly researching the subject of her material. Any serious journalist who researches 'Wahhabism' will no doubt conclude that it is the only methodology within Islam that calls against terrorism, based upon knowledge of the Qur'aan and Sunnah.

4. This brief study has demonstrated that '*Wahhabis*' are not afraid of critical analysis and research. Rather it has been Mona Eltahawy and her likes that have irrationally rejected critical enquiry and academic research.

Eltahawy's last remarks to advice given to her were, ***"you are all agents of the Zionist entity pretending to be Muslims."*** A clear display of how ignorant people react when challenged or questioned. Similar to how *'Wahhabis'* are described.

Abu'l-Fadl wrote that *'Wahhabis'* are, **"both uninterested in critical historical enquiry..."** Maybe Mona should take this advice from her Shaykh. He also accuses the 'Wahhabis' of making **"overbroad generalizations that are factually incorrect."** [*Global Dialogues*; Vol. 4; No. 2; Spring 2002; pp 1-16]

Abu'l-Fadl and Mona Eltahawy should take their own advice. This shows the confusion and contradictions that people who cast aspersions on the Qur'aan and Sunnah have.

5. When Eltahawy was initially advised regarding her inaccurate writing this may have been the first time that she had actually interacted with Muslims, born and raised in the West itself and could articulate Islam in their own mother

tongues of English. This seems to have been a phenomenon that Eltahawy may not have faced before, hence her further dismay that there are “people in the West that support Wahhabi ideology.”

Eltahawy and others who have similar levels of weight with non-Muslims with regard to explaining current events in the Islamic world should act more responsibly. They should leave off any envy, jealousy or hatred that may have arisen from personal experiences in Muslim countries, and reflect on the Qur'aan and Sunnah.